

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Edward Kmett (42,746) on March 10, 2010.

2. The application has been amended as follows:

Claim 7 (Currently Amended) A communication apparatus capable of connecting to a network and capable of controlling a controlled device having a predetermined function, comprising:

a device detecting unit that (a) detects the controlled device among a plurality of devices connected to the network, and (b) obtains an IP address of the controlled device, wherein the device detecting unit uses a first communication protocol to detect the controlled device and to obtain the IP address of the controlled device;

a communication unit that transmits a request for inquiring whether the controlled device having the obtained IP address is directly connected to the communication apparatus via a first transmission medium which uses a second communication protocol, the communication apparatus being directly connected to the first transmission medium, and the request being transmitted via the first transmission medium; and

a determining unit that determines whether the communication apparatus and the controlled device are directly connected to the first transmission medium for communication via the second communication protocol, wherein the determining unit (a) determines that the communication apparatus and the controlled device are directly connected to the first transmission medium, if a response corresponding to the request transmitted by the communication unit is received from the controlled device, and (b) determines that the communication apparatus and the controlled device are not directly connected to the first transmission medium but that the controlled device is connected to the network via a second transmission medium different from the first transmission medium, if no response corresponding to the request is received from the controlled device, ~~whereby~~ thereby the communication apparatus and the controlled device are not able to communicate with each other using the second communication protocol via the first communication medium but are able to communicate with each other via the first communication protocol,

wherein the communication apparatus displays warning information on a display unit if the determining unit determines that the communication apparatus and the controlled device are not directly connected to the first transmission medium and the controlled device is connected to the network via the second transmission medium.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended) A method performed by a communication apparatus that is capable of connecting to a network and capable of controlling a controlled device having a predetermined function, comprising:

a device detecting step that (a) detects the controlled device among a plurality of devices connected to the network, and (b) obtains an IP address of the controlled device, wherein the device detecting step uses a first communication protocol to detect the controlled device and to obtain the IP address of the controlled device;

a communication step that transmits a request for inquiring whether the controlled device having the obtained IP address is directly connected to the communication apparatus via a first transmission medium which uses a second communication protocol, the communication apparatus being directly connected to the first transmission medium, and the request being transmitted via the first transmission medium;

a determining step that determines whether the communication apparatus and the controlled device are directly connected to the first transmission medium for communication via the second communication protocol, wherein the determining step (a) determines that the communication apparatus and the controlled device are directly connected to the first transmission medium, if a response corresponding to the request transmitted by the communication step is received from the controlled device, and (b) determines that the communication apparatus and the controlled device are not directly connected to the first transmission medium but that the controlled device is connected to the network via a second transmission medium different from the first transmission medium, if no response corresponding to the request is received from the controlled device, ~~whereby~~ thereby the communication apparatus and the controlled device are not able to communicate with each other using the second communication protocol via

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the first transmission medium but are able to communicate with each other via the first communication protocol; and

a displaying step that displays warning information on a display unit if the determining step determines that the communication apparatus and the controlled device are not directly connected to the first transmission medium and the controlled device is connected to the network via the second transmission medium.

Claim 15 (Currently Amended) A computer readable storage medium on which is stored a computer executable program to execute a method performed by a communication apparatus, the communication apparatus being capable of connecting to a network and being capable of controlling a controlled device having a predetermined function, the program comprising:

a device detecting step that (a) detects the controlled device among a plurality of devices connected to the network, and (b) obtains an IP address of the controlled device, wherein the device detecting step uses a first communication protocol to detect the controlled device and to obtain the IP address of the controlled device;

a communication step that transmits a request for inquiring whether the controlled device having the obtained IP address is directly connected to the communication apparatus via a first transmission medium which uses a second communication protocol, the communication apparatus being directly connected to the first transmission medium, and the request being transmitted via the first transmission medium;

a determining step that determines whether the communication apparatus and the controlled device are directly connected to the first transmission medium for communication via the second communication protocol, wherein the determining step (a) determines that the communication apparatus and the controlled device are directly connected to the first transmission medium, if a response corresponding to the request transmitted by the communication step is received from the controlled device, and (b) determines that the communication apparatus and the controlled device are not directly connected to the first transmission medium but that the controlled device is connected to the network via a second transmission medium different from the first transmission medium, if no response corresponding to the request is received from the controlled device, ~~whereby~~ thereby the communication apparatus and the controlled device are not able to communicate with each other using the second communication protocol via the first transmission medium but are able to communicate with each other via the first communication protocol; and

a displaying step that displays warning information on a display unit if the determining step determines that the communication apparatus and the controlled device are not directly connected to the first transmission medium and the controlled device is connected to the network via the second transmission medium.

Allowable Subject Matter

3. Claims 7-18 are allowed.
4. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: The claimed invention is directed toward A communication apparatus capable of

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connecting to a network and capable of controlling a controlled device having a predetermined function, comprising: a device detecting unit that (a) detects the controlled device among a plurality of devices connected to the network, and (b) obtains an IP address of the controlled device, wherein the device detecting unit uses a first communication protocol to detect the controlled device and to obtain the IP address of the controlled device; a communication unit that transmits a request for inquiring whether the controlled device having the obtained IP address is directly connected to the communication apparatus via a first transmission medium which uses a second communication protocol, the communication apparatus being directly connected to the first transmission medium, and the request being transmitted via the first transmission medium; and a determining unit that determines whether the communication apparatus and the controlled device are directly connected to the first transmission medium for communication via the second communication protocol, wherein the determining unit (a) determines that the communication apparatus and the controlled device are directly connected to the first transmission medium, if a response corresponding to the request transmitted by the communication unit is received from the controlled device, and (b) determines that the communication apparatus and the controlled device are not directly connected to the first transmission medium but that the controlled device is connected to the network via a second transmission medium different from the first transmission medium, if no response corresponding to the request is received from the controlled device, thereby the communication apparatus and the controlled device are not able to communicate with each other using the second communication protocol via the first

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communication medium but are able to communicate with each other via the first communication protocol, wherein the communication apparatus displays warning information on a display unit if the determining unit determines that the communication apparatus and the controlled device are not directly connected to the first transmission medium and the controlled device is connected to the network via the second transmission medium. The closest prior art of record (i.e Ayyagar et al. (PGPUB: US 2001/0033554 A1) and Park (PGPUB: US 2002/0111138 A1) taking singly or in combination does not teach or suggest these features. Based on this reasoning, claim 1 is allowable over the prior art of record.

5. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to LIN LIU whose telephone number is (571)270-1447. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday, 7:30am - 5:00pm, EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Srivastava Vivek can be reached on (571) 272-7304. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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